

Florida Center for Instructional Technology

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### *Question of the Month...*

#### **How does technology fit into a differentiated classroom?**

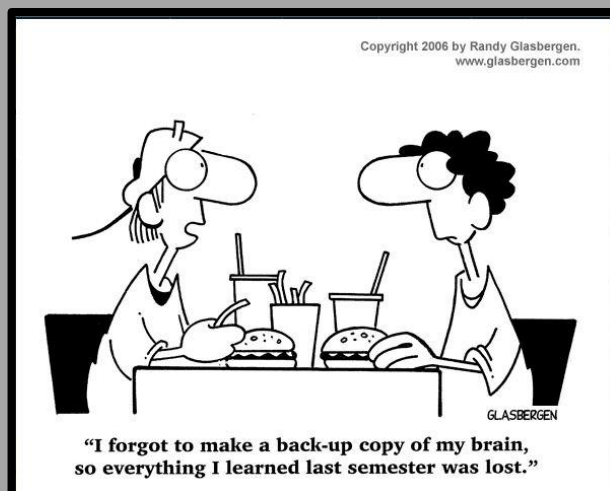
Technology, when appropriate, *can* play a large role in a differentiated classroom. By definition, a differentiated classroom is one in which a teacher varies how students gain access to knowledge (content), how the material will be learned (process) and how students will demonstrate mastery of content (product) based on students readiness, interests and learning profile. Let's look at *some* of the ways this can be achieved through the use of technology. It should be noted that some technology applications can be used for more than one purpose.

Content	Process	Product
How students access information...	How students learn...	How students demonstrate what they learn...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* PowerPoint Presentation</li><li>* United Streaming Video</li><li>* Podcast</li><li>* Internet Research</li><li>* e-books</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* WebQuests</li><li>* Live@edu Collaboration</li><li>* Online Graphic Organizing</li><li>* Student Response Systems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* e-presentations</li><li>* Videos</li><li>* Animations</li><li>* Artwork</li><li>* Podcast</li></ul>

### *Frequently Asked Question:*

#### **Q: How come my students can't access the network folders from the laptop?**

A: There's a good chance the wifi source has been switched for that particular computer and the student is no longer using the BOCES network. This is something students like to switch so they can go on sites that may be blocked by our network. Laptops can have subtle differences. If you aren't sure how to switch wifi connections, contact one of the Tech Committee members and they will help you.



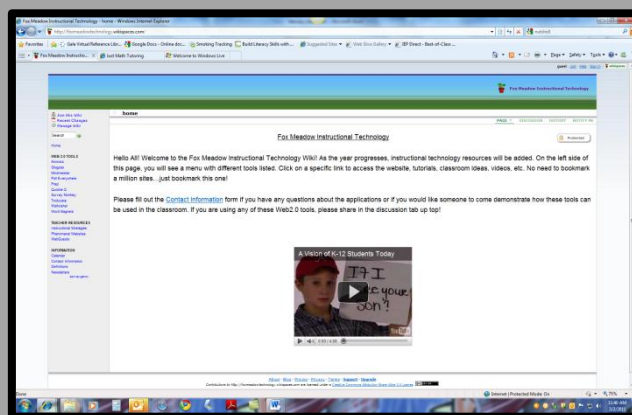
## Instructional Technology Meeting Updates

Diane Dursi and Lynn Allen joined us for February's Instructional Technology meeting. We were able to ask Lynn and Diane questions about technology, as well as show off what Instructional tools are being used in the classrooms. WebQuests, Notebook 10 software, Poll Everywhere and various comic creation sites were discussed.



## Fox Meadow Instructional Technology Wiki

When you get a chance, please stop by the Fox Meadow wiki and take a look at all the resources on the page. This page is updated regularly, so there might be something you haven't seen yet!



## COMICS IN EDUCATION

The use of comics in education is based on the dual coding theory, which states that recall/recognition is enhanced by presenting information in both written and verbal form. According to the Department of Digital Systems at the University of Piraeus, some strengths of using comics in your classroom include:

1. *Motivation*: Due to human's natural attraction to pictures, comics can capture and maintain the learner's interest;
2. *Visual*: Pictures and text mutually tell a story;
3. *Permanent*: Visual permanence is unique to comics;
4. *Intermediary*: Provides scaffolding for difficult disciplines and concepts;
5. *Development of Thinking Skills*: Analytical and critical thinking skills can be developed, uncovering the deeper meaning of a work.

If your interest is peaked and you'd like to give comics a try in your classroom, there are numerous great sites to be explored.

Witty Comics: [www.wittycomics.com](http://www.wittycomics.com)

Strip Creator: [www.stripcreator.com](http://www.stripcreator.com)

ToonDoo: [www.toondoo.com](http://www.toondoo.com)



## GOING LIVE (in a nutshell)



Some eager Fox Meadow teachers have already been working with Microsoft Live. For those who haven't had a chance to use it yet, Joe Spatola and Cathy Armisto will be going around to classrooms to provide a brief overview of Microsoft Live for both teachers and students.

What exactly is Microsoft Live? It has a few features that are incredibly useful for our students, as well as staff. These components are...

**Microsoft Outlook** – Students have email addresses! Their email looks and acts the same as our Outlook email.

**Microsoft Office Web Apps** – This component is considered online companions to Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote. If a student doesn't have Microsoft Office at home (which you'd be surprised how many don't), they can still work on documents from any computer with internet access. They can also collaborate with their peers via the web.

**Windows Live Skydrive** – 25GB of free online storage. Students don't have to store files on the network folders or a specific computer anymore. Their documents can be accessed from any computer with internet access.

## Helpful Projector Remote Buttons

### A/V Mute:

This button cuts off the audio and video from your computer to the projector. This can be helpful if you don't want your audience to see something on your screen temporarily.

### Freeze:

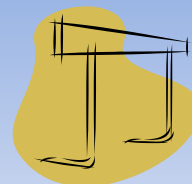
Whatever is being projected will remain on the SmartBoard. However, you are able to access anything else on your computer. This is nice for responding to a quick email while students are working or can be used when searching for another site as students work from the current projection.



## PROGRESS

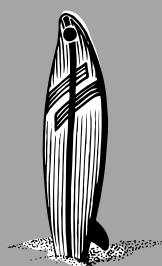
*"Obstacles are things a person sees when he takes his eyes off his goal."*

(E. Joseph Cossman)

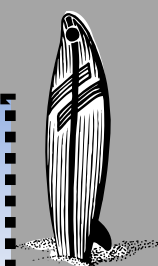


It is evident that the educators at BOCES have a clear goal of providing the best education possible for our students. This means providing our students with vital 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. Luckily, administration at BOCES feels the same way. Yes, at times, there are hurdles that we must jump and problems to solve, but in the process, let's not forget the progress that has been made just this year!

DIFFICULTY		SOLUTION
New students weren't able to get computer logins in a timely manner.	➡	Students no longer need their own login. They can use the generic log-in since they will be saving documents to Microsoft Live SkyDrive in the future.
Students "saved" work was getting lost. It was unclear what folder they saved it to and/or what computer.	➡	Microsoft Live Skydrive
Students don't have email addresses which can make it difficult for sending information and/or creating accounts for various Web2.0 tools.	➡	Microsoft Outlook Live Email
Not all the buildings have wifi	➡	This has been fixed and all the buildings are equipped with internet access.



## Worth the Surf



### Question of the Day Website

[http://www.internet4classrooms.com/question\\_day.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/question_day.htm)

A variety of websites that provide a "Question of the Day." [all subject areas]

**timetoast** 

[www.timetoast.com](http://www.timetoast.com)

Timetoast allows users to create linear timelines of events, including descriptions, images, and links. Events are presented as points on a continuum, and the timeline can also be viewed as a vertical list. Viewers can comment on Timetoast timelines, and individual timelines are embeddable.

### Instructional Technology Committee

Catherine Armisto, William Brightman, Erik Krantz, Mike Mueller,  
Fatima Oliveira, Marianne Rodriguez, Margo Schepart, Joe Spatola